HAS GOD FORGOTTEN ME?

**DATE: 3/22/2015 Sun am**

**TEXT: Psalm 13:1-6**

**INTRODUCTION**

We really do not know what specific incident occasioned the writing of the **13th Psalm**

We do know it’s a Psalm of David, though

And we know that for 8 or 9 years David has been fleeing from the jealousy of King Saul

Can you imagine holding up in caves or hiding out in the forest …

Not for Days, nor weeks or mouths … but for Years?

For years David was unable to travel freely

Every minute he had to look over his shoulder

It began with days, but the days quickly turned into weeks, and the weeks into months, and the month’s years

No wonder he begins this Psalm by asking – ***“How long?”***

He thinks … *“Is this the way it will be forever?”*

Does it seem like your Troubles have come to stay?

David seem to think so

Have you begun to grumble?

Is your grumbling now turning into murmuring against God?

Are you finding yourself complaining about something God allowed to come into your life?

If we are not careful, we will begin to murmur against God about the things He has allowed in our lives

The Real Victory in life in not found in the absence of troubles …

But in the Presence of God!

Our trails are tools in the hand of God to bring us closer to Him

We may think He has Forsaken us …

But He has Promised Never to Forget His own!

David cried out – ***“How long wilt Thou forget me, O LORD? For ever? How long wilt Thou hide Thy face from me?”***

Let’s pray and look at **Psalm 13** and try to answer this question …

**“Has God Forgotten Me?”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First let’s look at the Psalmist’s …

**I. “PLEA” – vs. 1, 2**

As we begin **Ps. 13** we find David Pleading with God here

**Plea** – is a *urgent emotional request*

***“How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?” “How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?”***

When it comes to David’s Plea

The first thing we see is …

**A. The ‘Purposes’ of God**

There are times /seasons when things come our way and we’re not sure whether it’s from the Lord or the Devil

**I Peter 1:6 *– “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:”***

We know though, that God has a purpose

**Romans 8:28 – *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose”***

As the seasons of life come and go, we need to seek the Lord for His purposes in those seasons

Again and again we read, ***“how long?”***

David cries out, ***“How long, Lord?”***

4 times … in these 2 verses … he asks this question

And then, when he finishes, he cries out, ***“For ever?”***

**The Plea is “what are the Purposes of God?”**

The 2nd thing we see when it comes to David’s Plea is …

**B. The ‘Problems’ of Life**

For David, everyday was another day with the same heartache

He says at the end of **v.2 – *“How long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?”***

There are times when the Lord allows us to go through trials that challenge and compel us

Why? I think … So that we might search for Him

Thankfully I know the Lord has Not forgotten me!

**Isaiah 49:13-16 … WOW!**

He has only withheld Himself … for a time

**The ‘Purposes’ of God**

**The ‘Problems’ of Life**

The last thing we see in David’s Plea is …

**C. The ‘Presence’ of God**

If you think you can live without Trouble, you’re fooling yourself

**Job 14:1 – *“Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble”***

Trouble will be with us for as long as we live

The issue is … how will we deal with it?

The Real Victory in Life is not found *in the absence of trouble*, but rather in the Presence of God

**THE “PLEA”**

Next let’s look at the Psalmist’s …

**II. “PRAYER” – vs. 3, 4**

In **vs. 3 & 4** see David Praying

***“Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;” “Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; and those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved”***

David says, this situation is a matter of …

**A. Life or Death**

In **v.3** David cries from his heart …

***“Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;”***

Note the little word ***“lest”*** – means *in order to prevent something from happening, especially something causing fear*

He says, *“Lord, I am going to die under this burden if you don’t do something”*

Have you ever felt you were under so heavy a load that you thought if it was not lifted, it would kill you?

Here’s what we need to understand (and probably don’t)

The Trail is secondary (you see…)

It’s not about the Trail (it’s about…)

God … using the situation to bring about a spiritual awareness in our life

These dark hours are being used to bring us to a place of total dependence upon Him

God wants us to realize that it’s only in Him that we can find strength and comfort

**II Cor. 1:3, 4 – *“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;” “Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, (that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble,) by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God”***

He also uses these situations that we might help others in their time of need

**Life or Death**

Next we see this

**B. Plea** (changes) **to Prayer**

The amazing thing in **Psalm 13** is not the Plea of David

But the Prayer of David

We must get to a place where we take our burdens to the Lord

We need to make our Pleas … Prayers

When we do, God comes to our aid

David’s prayer is – ***“lighten mine eyes”***

The allusion here is (probably) to his exhaustion

An exhaustion arising from his trouble and despair, as if he were about to die

Our sight grows dim as death approaches; and David seemed to feel that death was near

He says that unless God should intervene, the darkness would deepen, and he would die

The prayer, therefore, that God would ***“lighten his eyes,”*** was a prayer that He would intervene and save him from that death which he felt was coming

God is waiting for our pressing issues, our troubles,

… to become Prayers

Why? That He may answer them

He is waiting for us to cry out to Him, seeking Him for help!

What will it take for you call out to God for Help?

Never accept your troubles as the end of it all

They are always tools in the Hand of God to bring us closer to Him

You are not about to fall through the cracks

Not on God’s watch!

Look to God by Faith!

**THE “PLEA”**

**THE “PRAYER”**

Now notice before David even finished his request

That God brings the answer

God reveals Himself to David’s heart

Lastly, let’s look at the Psalmist’s …

**III. “PRAISE” – vs. 5, 6**

***“But I have trusted in Thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in Thy salvation” “I will sing unto the LORD, because He hath dealt bountifully with me”***

David closes out this Psalm with a Proverbial ***“But”***

You ought to circle that ***“but”*** in your Bible

David now transitions from Fear and Prayer … to Praise

He is saying – *“all of this is going on … but”*

… If I let myself, I could feel forgotten … ***“but”*** (instead)

***“I have trusted [Faith] in Thy mercy”***

***“My heart shall rejoice in Thy salvation”***

I have deliberately, and on purpose done this

Therefore …

***“I will sing unto the LORD”***

Why?

***“Because He hath dealt bountifully with me”***

No one can decide this for you … but you

**I John 5:4b – *“this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith”***

Jesus is the object of our Faith

**Hebrews 12:2a – *“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;”***

The Lord allowed circumstances in David’s life to remind him of what he truly possessed in the Lord

We need to move from saying – ***“How long?”***

To saying – ***“He hath dealt bountifully with me”***

**CONCLUSION**

So what does all this mean for you?

**1.** We need to understand that God may allow us to go through some very difficult times

And when He does …

**2.** We need to take our burdens to the Lord and allow them to become prayer

**3.** We need to realize that our problems are tools in the hand of God

**4.** We need to learn that the real victory comes when we put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

I guess the answer to our question of …***“How Long?”***

Has been answered

**Hebrews 13:5b – *“…for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”***

**INVITATION**

Do you feel forgotten today? – Bring it to the Lord

Is life crashing in all around you? – Bring it to the Lord

Are you without Hope? – Bring it to the Lord

Are you in need of Salvation? – Come to the Lord

Won’t you obey the Spirit of the Lord this morning